

Claims

1. Test tube for biological analyses of organic liquids using electro-optical equipment in general, having  
5 a container body with a liquid-containing cavity defined by walls comprising zones located opposite one another and capable of being passed through by the rays of an optical analysing system, and a connecting part for filling, characterized in that it comprises moreover at least one  
10 surface, which is developed so as not to interfere with said zones located opposite one another and on which surface information which can be optically read, such as bar codes or the like, may be accommodated.

2. Test tube according to Claim 1, characterized in  
15 that said surface or surfaces and said container body have, in cross-section, a form contained in a circular volume.

3. Test tube according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the container body (1) has a cavity (3) which is essentially prismatic and has an essentially rectangular cross-section, and a cylindrical connecting part (5) for filling,  
20 characterized in that it has at least one surface projecting from said container body.

4. Test tube according to Claim 1 or 2 or 3, characterized in that said surface is a portion of a  
25 cylindrical wall, also forming one of the walls of the container body (Fig. 7).

5. Test tube according to Claim 1 or 2 or 3, characterized in that said surface is formed by a flat laminar zone projecting from the said container body.  
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6. Test tube according to Claim 1 or 2 or 3, characterized in that said surface is formed by a flat laminar zone (7) developed as an extension of one of the walls of the said cavity parallel to the direction (F) of the rays of an optical analysing system.

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7. Test tube according to Claim 6, characterized in that said laminar zone (7) extends symmetrically on opposite sides of the essentially prismatic cavity (3).

8. Test tube according to Claims 6 or 7, characterized in that the longitudinal edges (7A, 7B) of said laminar zone and an additional projection (7C) located at a distance from said edges define a volume of the test tube contained and centred in a cylindrical housing.

9. Test tube according to Claim 8, characterized in that said projection (7C) is longitudinal and is developed along the plane of symmetry perpendicular to said laminar zone (7).

10. Test tube according to Claim 1 or 2 or 3, characterized in that the container body is cylindrical and has at least one surface projecting from said container body.

11. Test tube according to Claim 10, characterized in that said surface is formed by at least one flat laminar zone projecting from said cylindrical container body.

12. Test tube according to Claim 11, characterized in that said flat laminar zone projects tangentially from the cylindrical body.

13. Test tube according to Claim 12, characterized in that said flat laminar zone projects on opposite sides of the cylindrical body.

14. Test tube according to at least Claim 11, characterized in that it comprises two flat laminar zones which are essentially parallel and spaced from one another.

15. Test tube according to Claim 1, with a container body which has an essentially prismatic shape and a rectangular cross-section, characterized in that a bar code is applied onto at least one of the walls essentially parallel to the rays of the optical analysing system.

16. Apparatus for carrying out analyses of the type for determining the sedimentation velocity of particles in

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organic liquids, comprising means for receiving a plurality of test tubes and comprising optical reading means mounted on a slide designed to travel along the test tubes which are housed inside the apparatus, characterized in that it  
5 comprises on said slide also means for reading data, such as a bar code, located on the carrying surface of these test tubes.

17. Apparatus according to Claim 16, characterized in that said data reading means are positioned so as to  
10 perform reading in a direction parallel to the walls of the test tube which are passed through by the rays of the optical analysing system.

18. Apparatus according to Claim 16 or 17, characterized in that each of the seats designed to contain  
15 the test tubes has a longitudinal opening designed to allow reading - by the reading means - of a bar code applied onto one of the surfaces of the test tube.

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